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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum



DAL-31-77

TO : Chief, Domestic Collection Division
ATTN : Deputy Chief, Operations (Ed Watts)

DATE: 1 April 1977

FROM : Chief, Dallas Office

NEW
AF 203929

SUBJECT: Call from Dan Watson of Dallas Morning News re George de Mohrenschildt/Clippings from Dallas Times Herald and Dallas Morning News

A-68221 (DECEASED)

A173345

1. Dan Watson, reporter from the Dallas Morning News, called on 31 March 1977 and wanted to discuss our relationship with George de Mohrenschildt. I told him this was documented in the Warren Commission Report and I had nothing further to add. Watson then advised that Dallas was overrun with out of town reporters looking for a story on De Mohrenschildt and asked me if the name Robert Morris meant anything to me. He promised our conversation would be off the record and I then told him the only Robert Morris I knew of in the Dallas area was the Robert Morris who had been chief counsel on Joseph McCarthy's Senate investigative committee on un-American activities, and who was the former president of Plano University. (Plano is a suburb of Dallas.) I told Watson I had never met Robert Morris. He said this was the Robert Morris he was talking about, that he understood Morris was supposed to have had some connection with the CIA in Taiwan. He said Morris was reported to have autographed a book to J. Moore but could furnish no details. He did not explain how Morris was supposed to have been involved with either Lee Harvey Oswald or George de Mohrenschildt.

2. A search of the files of the Dallas Field Office produced a Weekly Activity Report (WAR) by Major Charles Piver stating he had called on Dr. Robert Morris, Chancellor of the University of Plano on 30 November 1973. His comments on the WAR are as follows: "Met Morris. Has info on sea oil but he is too tied up in politics to give straight answers. Vary conservative. Will try one more visit." (No further visit is listed.)

3. As you can see from the attached clippings De Mohrenschildt's death is getting a lot of play in the local press. So far my name hasn't surfaced but it may be just a matter of time before my association with De Mohrenschildt comes out.

JW Moore/slm

J. Walton Moore
J. WALTON MOORE

Attachment: As stated

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED~~

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

98th Year—No. 90 ★ ★ ★ DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1977 6 Sections Price Fifteen Cents

Oswald friend's death tape-recorded

BY JIMMY WORTH
 (Times Staff Writer)
 A 31-year-old Dallas engineer turned French aviator, who was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald, was killed in a plane crash last week, the flight instructor told the Times-Herald.

Investigations with the Palm Beach County sheriff's office were able to pinpoint the exact time of the suicide, 15 seconds past 2:31 p.m. Tuesday, because of the recording. The suicide was matched to a monitoring of the television program to determine the time of

death, police said. Authorities have told The Times-Herald that the maid turned the recorder on but then left the room and went downstairs. De Mohrenschildt can be heard on the recording coming into the bedroom, pulling open a dresser drawer where Mrs. Charles E. Tilton III kept a 20-gauge shotgun, removing the gun and walking away, presumably into an adjoining bedroom.

De Mohrenschildt might have been killed because of his reported status as the son of a potential witness before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, a Palm Beach County coroner Wednesday afternoon said the autopsy findings were "conclusive to a self-inflicted gunshot wound."

"If he weren't famous and this wasn't of unusual interest because of who he knew, it would be rated as just another suicide," said Det. Lt. Richard Sheets, who headed the sheriff's investigation. Dr. Caroline Curran, assistant medical examiner, performed the two and one-half hour autopsy here. His report

to Lt. Sheets offered no unusual facts. "If he was in ill health or anything like that, I was not informed of it," Sheets said. Sheets said the full report of the autopsy would be made public soon. Funeral arrangements were said to be complete early today, although funerals were expected to agree on a date later in the day. De Mohrenschildt's wife, Jeanne, was seen today on Fox

Thursday, March 31, 1977, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Friend says de Mohrenschildt felt spies watching him

(Continued from Page One)

Alexander de Mohrenschildt told the reunitees that he had been married to Joanne LeCron, a former New York fashion designer who had recently designed tennis garments under the trade name Smash Line.

His personnel folder at Bishop College, the predominantly black college in South Dallas where he taught Russian and French beginning in 1969 and for which he was a devoted and successful fund-raiser, states that he held a master's degree from the University of Texas.

Friends said that he was fluent in English, French, Polish, Russian, German and Spanish and that he recently took a year-long walking tour of Mexico and South America.

In the late 50s and 60s he was described as a successful petroleum geologist based in Dallas. His file at Bishop College states that he worked in that capacity as an adviser to the U.S. State Department in Pakistan, Ghana and Nigeria between 1956 and 1959.

From May 1963 until 1967, de Mohrenschildt was a petroleum adviser in Haiti, then under the dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier. That meant he was in that country in November 1963 at the time of the Kennedy assassination.

Attorney Russell said that de Mohrenschildt died with very few assets but that his finances were "at a very high level prior to the assassination period."

Russell said he represented de Mohrenschildt in his unsuccessful attempt to obtain more than \$1 million said to be due him for from the Haitian government. Following the assassination and his highly publicized testimony before the Warren Commission, de Mohrenschildt was besieged by authors and would-be investigators probing the Kennedy assassination and he was featured in nearly every book written about the assassination.

Friends said that it was largely as a result of this limelight that de Mohrenschildt was no longer able to work as a geologist. "The jobs suddenly were not available," said one friend. And in a world that greedily begged for every shred of information it could get on the death of the handsome young president, de Mohrenschildt himself became a victim of the assassination.

Still, he remained a prominent figure in the artistically active Dallas Russian

land in both Russian and French. According to his immediate supervisor, Dr. Roy Watson, chairman of the English and foreign language departments, de Mohrenschildt was an effective and well-liked professor.

"He taught mostly tutorial courses and was well liked by the students," said Watson. "He was a good supporter of the college and had contacts with people who could financially help the college."

And according to Watson and other friends interviewed, things were going relatively well for the man until about eight months ago.

The Kennedy assassination controversy had been revived through magazine articles and there began talk in Washington of creating a special House committee to re-investigate the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"To be totally honest," said one associate, "George had not been in very good emotional health for the past few years, but particularly in the past eight months. He began to have bizarre hallucinations and delusions."

"He thought he was under surveillance. He believed people were following him—the FBI, the CIA, the KGB—all sorts of people. In the last six months, he became very suspicious of the people he worked with at Bishop College."

Last August, he and his wife moved from the Andros Apartments, 3715 Travis, where they had lived since June of 1973, to a two-bedroom, \$300-a-month apartment at 2737 Kings Road.

About that time, according to Russell, de Mohrenschildt was approached by a man from Austin whose name he (Russell) says he can't remember who said he was writing a book that would be entitled "The Black Shield" about de Mohrenschildt's life and its relation following the assassination.

Russell believes that the very idea of another book frightened de Mohrenschildt and heightened his depression.

On at least two occasions, the attorney says, de Mohrenschildt attempted suicide. Following the most recent attempt last October, he was admitted on the advice of his wife to the psychiatric section of Parkland Hospital. Records there show he was released Dec. 30.

However, Russell recalls, he was still not healthy and argued consistently with his wife. According to the manager of the apartment complex where they lived, the couple was evicted in January following complaints of "constantly loud, noisy and disturbing arguments" that angered neighbors.

After this, friends say, his wife left to live with relatives in California while de Mohrenschildt moved to an apartment close to Bishop College. The couple remained close, however, and communicated

About four weeks ago, sometime in late February according to Russell, de Mohrenschildt was approached by a Dutch journalist and longtime acquaintance, Willem Ottema.

Russell says he arranged for a luncheon attended by de Mohrenschildt, Ottema and himself at the Cypress Club, an old-line social club in the Turtle Creek area.

Russell said that he to add new significance to the assassination story was discussed during the luncheon but that Ottema was obviously "looking for a story." The Dutch journalist, Russell says, proposed that de Mohrenschildt visit Holland and appear on Dutch television. A figure of several thousand dollars was mentioned as a proposed payment to de Mohrenschildt for his efforts.

Russell says he later left the two men to themselves. Ottema could not be reached Wednesday. Following the lunch, Russell recalled, de Mohrenschildt apparently took Ottema up on his offer and accompanied him to the Netherlands. The pair apparently did meet with Dutch publishers but the proposed interview on television never took place.

They went to Brussels, Belgium, together and it was there, sometime in March, that de Mohrenschildt disappeared, leaving his suitcase and clothes

with Ottema. Russell said that he received a receipt for the clothing, which is now being held in a Brussels bank. Ottema, meanwhile, reported de Mohrenschildt was in a Brussels bank and was then summoned by a Dutch journalist and longtime acquaintance, Willem Ottema.

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Texans whose stories were not told to Warren panel will testify

By Staff Writers

South where stories were told to the Warren Commission are among the key to use as assassinations to use in probing the conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

But John F. Kennedy's death was not the only one that was not told to the Warren Commission.

She recalls four or five bullet fragments were taken from then Gov. John Connally rather than three as the Warren Commission found.

Committee investigators say they believe the bullet that supposedly struck Kennedy in the back and then passed through Connally's body would have weighed two much if more than three fragments were removed.

The other witness, a Texarkana area resident who prefers not to identify herself, has told committee probes she

was introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby in 1963.

The Warren Commission said it found no evidence that Ruby, who shot Oswald to death in the basement of the Dallas police station two days after the assassination, knew each other.

The Texarkana area woman, who in 1963 was an entertainer in a nightclub near Ruby's club, also told committee investigators that movie film she took

of the assassination in Dealey Plaza was taken from her two days later by two men who said they were CIA or FBI agents. The film, not mentioned by the Warren Commission, was never returned to her, she told probes.

Cleburne architect J. Gary Shaw, who located the Texarkana area woman for the committee, quoted her as saying Ruby introduced Oswald to her and at least two others as "Lee Oswald of the CIA."

"I met with committee investigators

for about three hours in Dallas before they talked with her," Shaw said. "She called me a couple of days after they saw her. She said she has agreed to testify."

Shaw said she had been reluctant to come forward with the information because she "is scared to death" for reasons not directly connected with the assassination "and rightfully so." But Shaw declined to specifically state why.

Shaw said he also supplied investigators with another Dallas area witness who will testify that Ruby, Oswald and other men from Mexico and New Orleans met one morning on another occasion in the fall of 1963 in the Carrousel Club. The witness was called by Ruby to come to the club early that day to serve drinks to some of those present, Shaw said.

Miss Bell, now supervisor of the operating suite at Children's Medical Center, said committee investigators probably brought her out March 12 as a result of what "all started in an hour."

DALE GALT

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De Mohnrenschmidt, who had befriended Oswald and his wife when they came to the Dallas Fort Worth area from Russia in 1962, left his post as a professor of French at Bishop College here March 1, a week after the Oltmans interview. They went to Belgium and Holland before De Mohnrenschmidt returned to this country March 17 to take up residence in the West Palm Beach mansion of a cousin of one of his four former wives.

De Mohnrenschmidt's last wife, Jeanne, in seeking to commit him to Parkland Hospital Nov. 9, told county authorities he had tried to commit suicide four times.

The last attempt, she told authorities, was Oct. 28, one day before he had come to the psychiatrist with a request to be committed to Terrell State Hospital. That amounted to an attempt to "drown himself in the bath tub," she told county authorities.

Other suicide attempts, the former Mrs. De Mohnrenschmidt said, involved

cutting his wrists and consuming entire bottles of drugs.

The mental illness history of De Mohnrenschmidt, as given county authorities by his former wife, related that he asserted "his telephone is bugged. The house is bugged — voices and people eavesdropping to what he says."

The former Mrs. De Mohnrenschmidt's mental illness history also stated he thought the FBI was "after him" and "the Jewish Mafia is closing in on him." She said he was having delusions of "ghosts of FBI and Jews."

The psychiatrist who made arrangements for De Mohnrenschmidt's commitment to Terrell State Hospital said one week before De Mohnrenschmidt killed himself he thought last October he was "suicidal."

"Obviously this man was depressed, wanted to escape, wanted freedom from his depression," the psychiatrist said, "and was suffering from delusions, which, of course, goes together. This doesn't make anyone crazy ... We are dealing with an extremely intelligent man."

Old friend vowed suicide, psychiatrist claimed

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